



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,782	01/30/2002	Koji Goto	016907-1369	4156

22428 7590 09/22/2005

FOLEY AND LARDNER
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/058,782

Applicant(s)

GOTO, KOJI

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/30/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 1/30/02 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Drawings

3. The drawings received on 1/30/02 are acceptable by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claims 1-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sheridan (U.S. Patent Number 5,760,917).

Regarding *claim 1*, Sheridan discloses an image input system in which a plurality of image forming apparatuses (hubs 201, or 20 and 21, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), each having a

Art Unit: 2622

scanner function (column 4, lines 34-47), a printer function (column 11, lines 23-49) and a network function and forming an image (column 4, lines 17-47), and a plurality of personal computers are connected to a network (terminals 202-204, and 40A-40C, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), each of the image forming apparatuses (hubs 201, or 20 and 21) comprising first setting means for setting a public folder made public on the network (column 4, lines 34-column 5, line 42), and storage means for setting therein at least one public folder through the setting by the first setting means (column 4, lines 34-column 5, line 42), each of the personal computers (terminals 202-204, and 40A-40C) comprising second setting means for setting exclusion of access by another personal computer to the public folder set in the image forming apparatus (column 4, line 48-column 5, line 64), transmission means for transmitting to the another personal computer via the network access exclusion setting information for excluding access to the at least one public folder set by the second setting means (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), reception means for receiving via the network permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting, which is returned from the another personal computer in response to the access exclusion setting information transmitted by the transmission means (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), and control means for executing a control for at least one public folder, on which access has been permitted in the access exclusion setting, on the basis on the permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting (column 5, line 3-column 6, line 35).

Regarding *claim 2*, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the storage means is a hard disk drive (column 4, lines 34-47).

Regarding **claim 3**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the public folder set in the storage means can be accessed by any one of the plurality of personal computers via the network (see Figs. 1 and 2, column 4, line 17-column 5, line 64).

Regarding **claim 4**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the public folder set in the storage means stores image data, which is scanned by the scanner function when the public folder is designated by the operation of the image forming apparatus (column 4, line 48-column 5, line 42, and column 9, line 1-column 11, line 49).

Regarding **claim 5**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the second setting means, the transmission means, the reception means and the control means are operated according to an application program prestored in the personal computer (column 4, lines 17-47).

Regarding **claim 6**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image forming apparatus, for which the setting by the second setting means is performed, is designated with use of an IP address (column 4, lines 17-33, and column 5, lines 7-42).

Regarding **claim 7**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the permission/non-permission information is information for rejecting access by another personal computer to the public folder, the access to which by the another personal computer is excluded by the present personal computer, and for permitting access by the another personal computer to the public folder, the access to which by the another personal computer is not excluded by the present personal computer (column 4, line 48-column 6, line 35).

Regarding **claim 8**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the control means invalidates the setting of access to a public folder, the access to which is not permitted by the permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting returned from any one of the other personal computers (column 4, line 48-column 6, line 35).

Regarding **claim 9**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the control means controls reading and deletion of image data stored in at least one of the public folders, the access to which has been permitted in the access exclusion setting (column 4, line 48-column 6, line 35).

Regarding **claim 10**, Sheridan discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the control means controls reading and deletion of image data stored in at least one of the public folders, the access to which has been permitted in the access exclusion setting, and also controls when there is associated setting data, execution of a function based on the associated setting data (column 4, line 48-column 6, line 35).

Regarding **claim 11**, Sheridan discloses an image input system in which a plurality of image forming apparatuses (hubs 201, or 20 and 21, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), each having a scanner function (column 4, lines 34-47), a printer function (column 11, lines 23-49) and a network function and forming an image (column 4, lines 17-47), and a plurality of personal computers are connected to a network (terminals 202-204, and 40A-40C, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), each of the image forming apparatuses (hubs 201, or 20 and 21) comprising first setting means for setting a public folder made public on the network (column 4, lines 34-column 5, line 42), and first storage means for setting therein at least one public folder through the setting by

Art Unit: 2622

the first setting means (column 4, lines 34-column 5, line 42), each of the personal computers (terminals 202-204, and 40A-40C) comprising second storage means for storing access exclusion setting information which excludes access by another personal computer to the public folder set in the image forming apparatus at the time of activation (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), reception means for receiving via the network access exclusion setting information, which is sent from another personal computer (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), preparation means for comparing the access exclusion setting information received by the reception means with the access exclusion setting information stored in the second storage means, and preparing permission/non-permission information that rejects access to a public folder on which the exclusion of access has been set, and that permits access to a public folder on which the exclusion of access is not set (column 5, line 3-column 6, line 35), and returning means for returning the permission/non-permission information prepared by the preparation means to the personal computer from which the access exclusion setting information was received by the reception means (column 5, line 3-column 6, line 35).

Regarding *claim 12*, Sheridan discloses an image input system in which a plurality of image forming apparatuses (hubs 201, or 20 and 21, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), each having a scanner function (column 4, lines 34-47), a printer function (column 11, lines 23-49) and a network function and forming an image (column 4, lines 17-47), and a plurality of personal computers are connected to a network (terminals 202-204, and 40A-40C, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), each of the image forming apparatuses (hubs 201, or 20 and 21) comprising first setting means for setting a public folder made public on the network (column 4, lines 34-column 5, line 42), and first storage means for setting therein at least one public folder through the setting by

Art Unit: 2622

the first setting means (column 4, lines 34-column 5, line 42), each of the personal computers (terminals 202-204, and 40A-40C) comprising second storage means for storing access exclusion setting information which excludes access by another personal computer to the public folder set in the image forming apparatus (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), transmission means for transmitting the access exclusion setting information stored in the second storage means to the another personal computer via the network at the time of activation (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), reception means for receiving via the network permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting returned to the another personal computer in response to the access exclusion setting information transmitted by the transmission means (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), and control means for updating the access exclusion setting information stored in the second storage means and executing a control for at least one public folder, on which access has been permitted in the access exclusion setting, on the basis of the permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting, which has been received by the reception means (column 5, line 3-column 6, line 35).

Regarding *claim 13*, Sheridan discloses an image input system in which a plurality of input apparatuses (hubs 201, or 20 and 21, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), each having a storage device for setting a public folder to be made public on a network and each inputting information such as image data (column 4, lines 34-47), and a plurality of personal computers are connected to the network (terminals 202-204, and 40A-40C, seen in Figs. 1, 4, and 6), comprising setting means for setting exclusion of access by another personal computer to the public folder set in the input apparatus (column 4, line 48-column 5, line 41), transmission means for transmitting to the another personal computer via the network access exclusion setting information for excluding

Art Unit: 2622

access to the at least one public folder set by the setting means (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), reception means for receiving via the network permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting, which is returned from the another personal computer in response to the access exclusion setting information transmitted by the transmission means (column 5, line 19-column 6, line 35), and control means for executing a control for at least one public folder, on which access has been permitted in the access exclusion setting , on the basis of the permission/non-permission information on the access exclusion setting, which has been received by the reception means (column 5, line 3-column 6, line 35).

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Saito *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,208,426) discloses a facsimile storage and transferring system;

Kocher (U.S. Patent Number 6,188,766) discloses a facsimile archiving system;

Yokoyama (U.S. Patent Number 6,166,826) discloses an image data transferring system;
and

Ouchi (U.S. Patent Number 5,739,918) discloses a facsimile machine with a mailbox function.

Art Unit: 2622

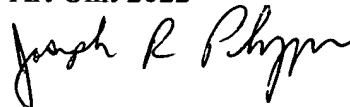
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7410. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622



jrp